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INFO RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY 1352

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STATE PLEASE PASS H FOR CODEL INOUYE
STATE ALSO FOR NEA/MAG (HARRIS)

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OREP AMGT ASEC TS JO
SUBJECT: COUNTRY CLEARANCE TO TUNISIA GRANTED FOR CODEL
INOUYE

REF: STATE 158647

¶1. Embassy Tunis grants country clearance and warmly welcomes Senator Daniel K. Inouye, Senator Ted Stevens and accompanying members of CODEL Inouye to Tunisia from November 25-26, 2007.

¶2. Point of contact for the visit is Political Officer Susannah Cooper. Contact information for Ms. Cooper is as follows: Phone: 216-71-107-306 or 216-71-107-000; Fax: 216-71-107-090; Cell: 216-95-104-413; Home: 216-71-775-221; email: Cooperse@state.gov.

¶3. Post will meet and assist at the airport with Embassy expeditor and vehicles.

¶4. Reservations have been made for CODEL Inouye at the Les Berges du Lac Concorde Hotel, Rue du Lac Turkana, 1053 Tunis, Tunisia. Room rate for single rooms is USD 119, including breakfast, taxes and Internet. Hotel Phone: (216) 71-961-951. Fax: (216) 71-961-952. Website: tunis.concorde-hotels.com/en/.

¶5. The Embassy will provide accommodation exchange at the hotel. Current approximate exchange rate is USD 1 equals 1.200 Tunisian Dinnars.

¶6. Embassy Tunis' normal workweek is Monday through Friday; office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Tunisian Government offices are closed on Friday afternoon.

¶7. Entry requirements: a valid passport is required; no visa is necessary.

¶8. Post requests delegation members' security clearances be forwarded to facilitate requested briefings.

¶9. Travelers with private or U.S. Government (USG) owned electronic devices including laptops, peripherals, diskettes, tapes, and other media, must receive RSO/ISSO authorization before these items can be allowed into Embassy facilities. Classified computers must be sent to post via the classified diplomatic pouch, or be hand carried by a non-professional diplomatic courier. All classified equipment must bear external USG bar-coded inventory numbers and classification marking commensurate with the highest level of information processed on the system. Cellular/mobile phones and palm-pilots are prohibited in Controlled Access Areas. Questions concerning other types of electronic devices and magnetic media may be directed to the ISSO or RSO. Electricity in Tunisia is 220 Volts.

¶10. Security/Crime Information: Tunisia is a moderate Arab country that has traditionally enjoyed peace and stability.

However, in light of the September 11 attacks in the United States and in view of the ongoing violence in Israel, the West Bank, Gaza and elsewhere in the Middle East region, the American Embassy reminds visitors to maintain a high level of vigilance and to take appropriate steps to increase their security awareness. While the Government of Tunisia has and will continue to make every effort to protect foreigners, visitors should avoid large crowds and crowded public areas and keep in regular contact with the Embassy.

¶11. Tunisian security forces are omnipresent and generally ensure public order. Low level, non-violent property crimes of opportunity are relatively common. Pickpockets and purse-snatchers are common in areas with high volume tourist traffic, such as the Tunis Medina (old city) and central market. It is prudent to exercise normal travel security precautions and maintain a low profile as one would in any major U.S. city. This should help to ensure an incident-free visit.

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